

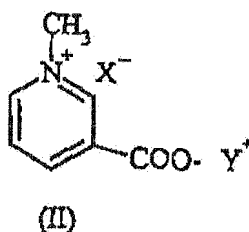
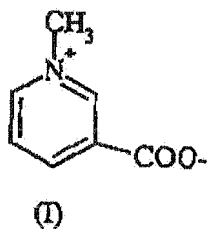
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of the claims. Please cancel claims 49 and 51 without prejudice and amend claims 19, 42, 47, 48, and 50 as follows.

Claims 1 to 18. (canceled)

19. (withdrawn – currently amended) An agent for repairing, strengthening and restructuring hair, said agent having a pH of 2.0 to 14.0 and consisting of:

0.2 to 30 wt. % of at least one active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a compound of formula (I) and compounds of formula (II):



wherein X^- represents an inorganic or organic, monovalent or polyvalent physiologically unobjectionable anion, and Y^+ represents an inorganic or organic, monovalent or polyvalent physiologically unobjectionable cation;

at least one auxiliary substance selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, anionic surfactants, cationic

surfactants, nonionic surfactants, thickeners, NaCl, buffering substances, keto-carboxylic acids, opacifiers, perfume oils, dyes, preservatives, paraffin oil, fatty acids, cationic resins, lanolin, lanolin alcohols, lanolin alkoxyates, cholesterol, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymer and propellants; and

at least one pH adjusting agent selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, phosphoric acid, α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, gluconolactone and alkalinizing agents, said at least one pH adjusting agent being present in a sufficient amount so that said pH is between 2.0 and 14.0;

wherein said water, when present, is contained in an amount of from 0.1 to 95 wt. %; said anionic surfactants, said cationic surfactants and said nonionic surfactants, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.2 to 30 wt. %; said alcohols, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.1 to 50 wt. %; said opacifiers, perfume oils, dyes and preservatives, when present, are contained in ~~an a total~~ amount of from 0.01 to 5 wt. % each; said buffering substances, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.1 to 10 wt. %; the cationic resins, lanolin, lanolin alcohols, lanolin alkoxyates and cholesterol, when present, are contained in ~~an a total~~ amount of 0.1 to 5 wt. % each; and the thickeners, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.5 to 20 wt. %.

Claims 20 to 22. (canceled)

23. (withdrawn) The agent as defined in claim 19, wherein said at least one active ingredient is one of said compounds of formula (II) in a pure, betainic form.

24. (withdrawn) The agent as defined in claim 19, wherein said anion is selected from the group consisting of formate, tartrate, oxalate, aspartate, glutamate, acetate, citrate, chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, monohydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate, hydroxide, carbonate and nitrate, and wherein said cation is selected from the group consisting of protons, alkali metal cations, alkaline earth metal cations, ammonium cations, primary amine cations, secondary amine cations, tertiary amine cations, quaternary amine cations, hydrazide cations and hydroxylammonium cations.

25. (withdrawn) The agent as defined in claim 19, wherein said cation is a lithium cation, a sodium cation, a potassium cation, a calcium cation, a magnesium cation, an aluminum cation, an iron cation, a zinc cation, a copper cation, a manganese cation or a silver cation.

26. (withdrawn) The agent as defined in claim 19, consisting of a shampoo, a hair protection spray, a hair conditioner, a permanent wave formulation, a hair dressing composition or a hair coloring composition.

27. (withdrawn) The agent as defined in claim 19, containing from 0.2 to 20 percent by weight of said at least one active ingredient.

28. (withdrawn) The agent as defined in claim 19, containing from 2 to 10.0 percent by weight of said at least one active ingredient.

29. (withdrawn) The agent as defined in claim 19, in the form of an aqueous or aqueous-alcoholic solution, emulsion, foam, cream or gel.

Claims 30 to 32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein said hair is weakened and/or damaged prior to bringing said agent in contact with said hair.

34. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein the agent is brought in contact with the hair before, during

or after exposure of the hair to chemical and/or physical noxae.

35. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein the agent is brought in contact with the hair before a chemical treatment and/or physical treatment of the hair.

36. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein the chemical treatment comprises dyeing, tinting, bleaching or permanent deformation.

Claim 37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein said hair is human hair.

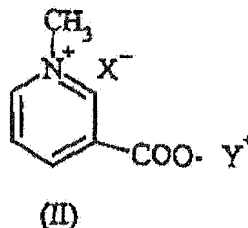
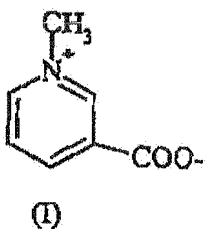
Claims 39 and 40. (canceled)

41. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein said at least one active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of a hydrochloride of said compound of formula (I), a citrate of said compound of formula (I) and an acetate of said compound of formula (I).

42. (currently amended) A method of for repairing, strengthening, and restructuring hair, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing an agent with a pH of 2.0 to 14.0 and consisting of:

0.2 to 30 wt. % of at least one active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a compound of formula (I) and compounds of formula (II):



wherein X^- represents an inorganic or organic, monovalent or polyvalent physiologically unobjectionable anion, and Y^+ represents an inorganic or organic, monovalent or polyvalent physiologically unobjectionable cation; and

at least one auxiliary substance selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, thickeners, NaCl, buffering substances, keto-carboxylic acids, opacifiers, perfume oils, dyes, preservatives, paraffin oil, fatty acids, cationic resins, lanolin, lanolin alcohols, lanolin alkoxylates, cholesterol, vinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymer and propellants; and

at least one pH adjusting agent selected from the group

consisting of acetic acid, phosphoric acid, α -hydroxycarboxylic acids, gluconolactone and alkalizing agents, said at least one pH adjusting agent being present in a sufficient amount so that said pH is between 2.0 and 14.0;

wherein said water, when present, is contained in an amount of from 0.1 to 95 wt. %; said anionic surfactants, said cationic surfactants and said nonionic surfactants, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.2 to 30 wt. %; said alcohols, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.1 to 50 wt. %; said opacifiers, perfume oils, dyes and preservatives, when present, are contained in an ~~a total~~ amount of from 0.01 to 5 wt. % each; said buffering substances, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.1 to 10 wt. %; the cationic resins, lanolin, lanolin alcohols, lanolin alkoxylates and cholesterol, when present, are contained in an ~~a total~~ amount of 0.1 to 5 wt. % each; and the thickeners, when present, are contained in a total amount of 0.5 to 20 wt. %;

b) bringing said agent in contact with said hair at a temperature between 10 and 70°C for a time period of 1 to 60 minutes; and

c) subsequently rinsing said agent out of said hair.

43. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein said anion is selected from the group consisting of formate, tartrate, oxalate, aspartate, glutamate, acetate, citrate, chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate, hydrogen sulfate, phosphate, monohydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate, hydroxide, carbonate, and nitrate and wherein said cation is selected from the group consisting of protons, alkali metal cations, alkaline earth metal cations, ammonium cations, primary amine cations, secondary amine cations, tertiary amine cations, quaternary amine cations, hydrazide cations and hydroxylammonium cations.

44. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein said agent is in the form of an aqueous or aqueous-alcoholic solution, emulsion, foam, cream, or gel.

45. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein said agent is a shampoo, a hair protection spray, a hair conditioner, a permanent wave formulation, a hair dressing composition or a hair coloring composition.

46. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 42, wherein said alkalizing agents are selected from the group consisting of ammonia, alkanolamines, alkylamines, alkali metal

hydroxides, ammonium hydroxides, alkali metal carbonates, ammonium carbonate and alkali metal phosphates; and said α -hydroxycarboxylic acids are selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, salicylic acid, lactic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid and malic acid.

47. (currently amended) A method of improving rubbing resistance of tinted hair, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a hair tinting agent for tinting said hair, said tinting agent comprising ~~at least~~ 0.1 wt. % of 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate; and

b) bringing said hair tinting agent into contact with said hair so as to color the hair;

whereby said hair has a characteristic lifetime that is extended or lengthened in comparison to another characteristic lifetime obtained by tinting said hair with another hair tinting agent that does not include said 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate but is otherwise the same as said hair tinting agent.

48. (currently amended) A method of improving rubbing resistance of permanently shaped hair, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a permanent shaping agent for said hair, said permanent shaping agent comprising ~~at least~~ 0.5 wt. % of 1-methyl-

pyridinium-3-carboxylate; and

b) performing a permanent shaping treatment of said hair with said permanent shaping agent containing said 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate;

whereby said hair has a characteristic lifetime that is extended or lengthened in comparison to another characteristic lifetime obtained by permanent shaping of the hair with another permanent shaping agent that does not include said 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate but is otherwise the same as said permanent shaping agent.

49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A method of improving tear strength of damaged hair, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a shampoo for said damaged hair, said shampoo consisting of comprising at least 2.0 wt. % of 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate hydrochloride, 40.0 wt. % of a 25 % sodium lauryl ether sulfate solution, 4.0 wt. % sodium chloride and a remaining portion of water; and

b) treating the hair with said shampoo containing said 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate hydrochloride;

whereby said hair has an improved tensile strength in comparison to said hair treated with another shampoo that does not contain any 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate hydrochloride but is otherwise the same as said shampoo containing said 1-methyl-pyridinium-3-carboxylate hydrochloride.

Claim 51. (canceled)